an enclosure, including:

a surface for supporting said object, and

a processor, including means for receiving said signal from said emitter, said processor capable of identifying said symbol from said signal, and capable of identifying a position of said object on said surface.

2. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for entering data into a computer, the data being entered via the placement of a plurality of objects on the apparatus, each object having at least one unique item of data associated therewith, comprising:

a substantially flat, planar surface for receiving the placement of the plurality of objects;

one or more detectors capable of detecting the at least one unique item of data associated with the objects placed on the surface from a signal including encoded information actively emitted from the objects;

a communication link capable of communicating the detected data from the apparatus to the computer, the computer capable of providing visual feedback of the data detected from the objects placed on the surface.

4. (Once Amended) An apparatus for receiving data from a data emission means within an object, and relaying the data to a computer, the data uniquely representative of indicia associated with the object, comprising:

a surface for supporting the object at a user-defined location on said surface;

sensors providing adjacent said surface for sensing the indicia-representative data from a signal including encoded information actively emitted by the data emission means, and for sensing said user-defined location for the object on the surface; and

means for communicating the indicia-representative data and said user-defined location to the computer, the computer capable of providing visual feedback of the data detected from the objects placed on the surface.

6.   (Once amended) An apparatus for transferring data to a computer, the computer including a surface and means associated with said surface for receiving and forwarding data to the computer, comprising:

an object capable of being supported on the surface at a user-defined location on the surface, said object including a character on a face of said object; and

an emitter within said object for actively emitting data including encoded information indicative of said character and said user-defined location, said data capable of being transferred to the computer by the data receiving and forwarding means.

9.   (Once amended) A system for transferring data to a computer, comprising:

a block having a character on a surface of said block;

a surface for supporting said block at a user defined location on said surface;

an emitter provided within said block, said emitter capable of actively emitting a signal including encoded information representative of said character; and

a reader in communication with the computer for receiving said signal and for receiving information indicative of said user-defined location of said block on said surface.